“More,” in this case involved actually finding 200-plus rounds of .380 ACP ammunition. Perhaps you’ve noticed, there’s a shortage of ammo out there. Particularly .380 ACP. I went through the phone book, calling local gun dealers. Some apologized, some just laughed. The usual mail order sources were showing three- to eight-week backorders. My own personal stash of .380s was down to about 50 odd, assorted and antiquated rounds. Finally, several good buddies came through with a sufficient quantity of .380 ACP for break-in and testing. Phew!

My first test of the Kahr P380 was not at a formal range. I’d taken my wife out to a desert shooting spot for some informal practice with her gun of choice, a Taurus Judge. I brought along the P380 with my initial small quantity of assorted ammo because I couldn’t wait to shoot it. We were practicing offhand at 10 yards, and I was quite pleasantly surprised at the Kahr’s impeccable behavior. The sights are very clear, and marked with a horizontal white bar on the rear and a white dot on the front. The double-action trigger pull is easy and instinctive. I used up my .380 ammo very quickly, including some elderly cartridges with a “U” stamped on the primers. No functioning problems at all, even on rapid fire. With aimed fire at 10 yards, fist-sized groups were easy. This is very impressive performance for a pocket auto in a category usually relegated to “stick it up their nose and pull the trigger” situations. Not surprising, though, when you consider the P380’s match-grade Lothar Walther barrel.

Several days later, having obtained a good supply of more modern ammo, I continued my testing. I used CCI Blazer 95-grain TMJ, Winchester 95-grain BEB, Remington 88-grain JHP and Cor-Bon +P 90-grain JHP.

All shot consistently to the same point of impact, and from an improvised rest at 10 yards I was able to print some 2” seven-round and 2-1/2” 14-round groups. I was a little apprehensive about the Cor-Bon +Ps, but the P380 loves +Ps, and the recoil was not noticeably more than that of the other loads, which was surprisingly quite mild. I passed the Kahr around to several of my shooting buddies to try out, and they were all quite favorably impressed with its performance.

All in all, the Kahr P380 is a little-bitty gun that shoots like a big gun. It is eminently concealable, a pleasure to shoot, and you don’t have to be at close quarters for effective shot placement. With an MSRP of $649, the P380 costs almost twice as much as some of its competition. Like its bigger brothers, it’s well worth it. I need another gun like a moose needs a hat rack, but I sent a check off to Kahr to keep the P380 I tested.

Kahr Arms • 130 Goddard Memorial Drive
• Worcester, MA 01603 • Phone 508-795-3919
www.kahr.com